

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-12 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1503

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 18263

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, FR, UR

SUBJECT: FRENCH VIEWS ON CSCE

REF USNATO 3128

1. ON EVE OF CSCE MINISTERIAL, QUAI SOVIET DESK OFFICER BROUSTE TOLD EMBOFF FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT WAS SOMEWHAT TAKEN ABACK BY GROMYKO' S HARD LINE APPROACH DURING TALKS ON PERIPHERY OF POMPIDOU- BREZHNEV SUMMIT. GROMYKO STRONGLY EMPHASIZED AGREE-
MENT ON REACHING PRINCIPLES AND MANDATES AIMED AT STIMULA-
TING ECONOMIC AS WELL AS CULTURAL AND HUMAN CONTACTS. QUAI CSCE OFFICERS CONCERNED THAT GROMYKO MAY BE TRYING TO BRING CSCE " BACK TO SQUARE ONE AND PUT MPT RESULTS IN PARENTHESES".
ASK WHETHER FRENCH BELIEVE GROMYKO' S POSITION MIGHT BE
SUMPLY TACTICAL, BROUSTE ACKNOWLEDGED THIS POSSIBILITY BUT
REITERATED CONCERN OF QUAI CSCE EXPERTS.

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2. ON TIMING, GROMYKO ALSO SURPRISED FRENCH BY MENTIONING NOVEMBER AS POSSIBLE DATE FOR STAGE THREE CONFERENCE. JOBERT FIRMLY REASSERTED FRENCH VIEW THAT STAGE THREE DATE AND LEVEL SHOULD BE AGREED BY CONSENSUS OF ALL 35 PARTICIPANTS ON BASIS OF STAGE TWO RESULTS. TO THIS, GROMYKO REPORTEDLY GRUMBLED ABOUT CONSENSUS RULE, SAYING " WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW SMALL COUNTRIES, LIKE MALTA, TO STAND IN THE WAY OF GOOD SENSE OF LARGER POWERS."

3. AS FOR SITE OF POSSIBLE " SUPER SUMMIT" FINALE, EMBOFF ASKED ABOUT PRESS REPORTS THAT PARIS MIGHT BE CHOSEN. AT FIRST, BROUSTE SAID PARIS " NOT A LIKELY CHOICE," SINCE SITE SHOULD BE NEUTRAL AND FRANCE IS MEMBER OF ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. HE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT IF BROAD EAST- WEST CONSENSUS DEVELOPS FAVORING PARIS, GOF WOULD " NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY."

4. QUAI DIRECTOR AMERICAN AFFAIRS, PERHAPS REFLECTING DE-BRIEFINGS FOR QUAI SENIOR STAFF AND POMPIDOU- BREZHNEV SUMMIT, TOOK RATHER MORE SKEPTICAL VIEW OF ANY STAGE THREE SUMMIT. HE SAID FRENCH AT THIS POINT DO NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE RESULTS OF CSCE, WHILE IMPORTANT, " WILL MERIT" A SUMMIT. MOREOVER, HE COMMENTED, SOVIETS WERE TRYING TO " SEDUCE" FRENCH INTO ACCEPTING CSCE SUMMIT BY SUGGESTING POSSIBILITY OF PARIS AS VENUE. WHILE FRENCH DO NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY OF SUMMIT, THEY ARE , HE CONCLUDED, VERY SKEPTICAL THAT SUMMIT WOULD PROVE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR WESTERN INTEREST.

5. COMMENT: RE PROBLEM NOTED REFTTEL CONCERNING CONSULTATIONS WITH FRENCH, EMBASSY OFFICERS WILL CONTINUE, AS IN THE PAST, TO IMPRESS UPON QUAI OFFICERS IMPORTANCE OF COHESION AND CONSULTATIONS AMONG ALLIES AS WE PROCEED THROUGH CSCE. WE BELIEVE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF COORDINATING WITH FRENCH ON TACTICS, HOWEVER, HAS PROVED TO BE WITHIN CONTEXT OF NEGOTIATIONS THEMSELVES, AS DEMONSTRATED BY EXCELLENT RESULTS OBTAINED IN HELSINKI DURING MPT BY US DELEGATION.
IRWIN

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